

# ***“Who then, is my enemy?”***

## ***Background***

### ***Opening sentence:***

#### ***a. Who is thought to be our enemy?***

- (1) Some despairing believers think God is their enemy.

They think a Job did in Job 13:24:

“Why do you hide your face, and consider  
me your enemy?”

- (2) We know that Satan is our enemy, but some believers act like even the smallest thing they do is because of a spiritual attack.

- (3) Rebellious men see God as their enemy.

Isaiah 63:10

*“But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore,  
He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.”*

- (4) A man’s own house (family) can be thought of as an enemy.

Micah 7:6

*“ For son treats father contemptuously, Daughter rises up  
against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;  
A man's enemies are the men of his own household. “*

Matthew 10:36 “..and a man’s enemies will be the  
members of his household.”

(5) Non-believers often see believers as their enemy.

**1 Kings 21:20**

*And Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?" And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord."*

Perhaps that is why the staff person at Dr. Brigham's can say to me 'I'm afraid of you'. Telling the truth often puts us in an adversarial position. The real fear should be of God's judgment, not our prayers for them.

b. The unsaved are in actuality, separated from God.

Paul, in Ephesians 4:17, says that the unsaved walk *"..in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart, and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality, for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness."*

**Transitional Sentence:**

*If we're to be used by the Lord to show God's love and win abortion minded people to Christ, we need to realize these three Bible truths:*

- I. Realize that people are not my enemy {Luke 6:27-28; 35-37}**
- II. Realize that the world {1 John 2:15-17} , the flesh { James 4:1-10} , and devil {Ephesians 6:12} are my enemies**

### **III. Realize that I was once an enemy of God {Romans 5:10}**

#### **I. Realize that people are not my enemy {Luke 6:27-28; 35-37}**

##### **a. Luke 6:27-28:**

**"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat"**

##### **b. Luke 6:35-37**

***"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men.***

***"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.***

***"And do not judge and you will not be judged; and do not condemn, and you will not be condemned; pardon, and you will be pardoned."***

**Application:** We are to hear, love, do good, bless, pray, not retaliate, show mercy, and not judge motives (although we can judge actions)

#### **Illustration:**

**Focus on the Family has asked:**

***Why has the Sanctity of Life ethic eroded in our culture?***

**Their reply is this...**

**First, we need to understand the spiritual source of this disrespect for life. In John 10:10, we learn that satan's goal is to steal, kill and destroy those made in the Image of God. He is motivated by hatred for those who reflect the Image of the Holy**

God — the same God who threw him out of heaven because he wanted to be like God (Isaiah 14:14, "I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High").

The enemy of our souls will always attack and seek to destroy human beings created in the Image of God. Thankfully, the good news is found in the second part of John 10:10 as Jesus declares that He has come to give life abundantly.

. So,

## II.

**the flesh { James 4:1-10} , and devil {Ephesians 6:12}  
are our enemies**

a. **I John 2:15-18 says,**

*“Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.*

*And the world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever.*

*Perhaps our greatest hinderance to ridding our country of abortion is that many Christians love the world and the things of the world more than they hate child-killing and certainly more than they love those involved with abortion.*

*To love is to show affection and devotion. Am I more devoted to the NFL playoffs, my house, my free time, than I am to seeing the curse of abortion removed from our land?. Do I show more affection to things rather than people? It's no wonder 18% of those who get an abortion are born-again.*

*We've so bought in to the temporal pleasures of our culture that we're too*

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       **says**

v. 1, desire for pleasure; v. 2, our lust, our envy, our motives; v.4, our friendship with the world, which = hostility toward devil. In verses 8 through 10, we have the solution: Draw near to God, exalt or lift you up. In other words, when we resist the devil, God draws

**Listen to James words in verses 4 through six:**

*hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend*

*Scripture speaks to no purpose: "He jealously desires the Spirit which He says, "God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*

**Illustration:** This is illustrated in 2 Timothy 4:9, when the Apostle Paul tells Timothy that “Demas, having loved this present world” deserted him and went on to Thessalonica.

Ezekial describes the problem in Ezekial 14:4. A man sets up “idols in his heart” putting “right before his face the stumbling block of his iniquity..”

**Application:** Perhaps that's why abortion has remained with us for the past 27 years. Believers have feared losing their friendship with this world more than they have of displeasing God.

So, what should be our response to those who oppose us?

Our attitude towards those who oppose us should be marked by being --

1. Overcome by kindness

**I Sam. 26:18-21** - A good example of this is found in I Samuel 26. David found Saul sleeping within the camp (v.7). Abishai said to David *“God has delivered your enemy into your hand this day. Now therefore, please, let me strike him at once with the spear, right to the earth..”* But David wouldn’t do this. he spared the Kings life. *“As the Lord lives, the Lord shall strike him”*

Are we leaving God’s work to God? Who made us God’s instruments of immediate judgment? Isn’t God powerful enough to take care of those who hate Him? And do we care enough for them --specifically for abortionists and for those who get abortions - to go to them with the gospel?

In I Sam. 26:18, David asks Saul: *“Why then is my lord pursuing his servant? For what have I done? Or what evil is in my hand?”* David attitude was to leave the judgment to God, and I believe, for the moment, Saul saw this.

verse 21, Then Saul said, *“I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will not harm you again because my life was precious in your sight this day. Behold, I have played the fool and have committed a serious error.”*

We play right into Satans hands when we try to overcome evil with evil... and we get in God’s way as He again and again reaches out in mercy to those who aren’t fighting us, but Him.

Our attitude towards those who oppose us should also be marked by doing good to them, when we have the opportunity.

**Romans 12:20-** “But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.”

MacArthur has said that when believers lovingly help their enemies, it should bring shame to such people for their hate and animosity” And perhaps, they’ll see the love of Christ in us and their need to repent. Shouldn’t that be our desire? I know that’s our desire at Gateway as we relate to our abortionist neighbor.

**3. Our attitude should also include, not rejoicing when those in opposition to us fall.** The goal is repentance, not destruction.

Job asked a good question in Job 31:29 - “Have I rejoiced at the extinction of my enemy, or exulted when evil befell him? No, I have not allowed my mouth to sin by asking for his life in a curse.”

We may sound whippy if we say we’re praying for Dr. Brigham, but we need to properly fear God should we sin by cursing him. We need to pray for him, and ask God to open his eyes to the truth of his sin.

*Our prayer card for Steven Brigham asks that our supporters ‘Pray that Steven’s eyes be opened and that he may ‘..turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that .. he .. may receive forgiveness of sins. (Acts 26:18),*

**in the same way that**

*“..He delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.. (Col. 1:13-14).*

We pray this for Steve Brigham, for Dr. Gordon, Natasha, Jackie, Tammie, Christie, Cathy and any one else who God has privileged us to be so near that we may intercede for them.

**5. And if he attacks us verbally, what should our response be?**

**Luke 23:34**

But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing."

As Jesus was being nailed on the cross for your sins, and the sins of Dr. Brigham, He didn't curse the soldiers who mocked him, he forgave them.

6. We are to, as far as it depends upon us, be at peace with those who oppose us:

**Proverbs 16:7**

When a man's ways are pleasing to the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

7. Finally, we are to be self-controlled

**Titus 1:7-8**, referring to Elders, warns against a quick temper, a self-willed attitude, and a pugnacious or combative approach to those who may oppose us.

*Satan loves it when believers argue with abortion providers or with women contemplating abortion. The love of Christ isn't shown, the real issue (the need to repent from sin) isn't exposed, and the believer comes off as self-righteous.*

So then, our enemy is the world and the flesh, and finally,

- c. **In Ephesians 6:12, Paul says:**

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

One commentator had described our real enemy (the Devil) as - wicked one (v. 16) His goal is the destruction of: Believers personally, families, the church.

Deceiver - he lies, seduces, resists, tempts, and persecutes Christians. False teaching. Planting a seed of doubt in your heart - God is not good,



**His will is not best for me, His Word is not true. Blinds the mind of unbelievers.**

**Divider - 1st act - divide angels, then Adam and Eve from God, brother from brother. Suspicion, intolerance, bitterness, unforgiveness - divide and conquer.**

**Destroyer (Apollyon) "the destroyer" He wants to destroy your life through any means possible. Adversity, discouragement, dissipating time and opportunities, temptation to sin.**

**John Calvin has said "He (Paul) means that our difficulties are far greater than if we had to fight against men. Where we resist human strength, sword is opposed to sword, man contends with man, force is met by force, and skill by skill; but here the case is very different, for our enemies are such as no human power can withstand."**

**MacArthur believes the spiritual hosts of wickedness refers to the most depraved abominations: sexual perversions, occultism, Satan worship. We could add to that abortion - child killing, because that always has been condemned in Scripture.**

**Abortion is a spiritual evil. It can not be defeated by attacking the abortionist or the women who get abortions. The enemy is the powers of darkness.**

**Perhaps the pro-life movement often is seen as aggressive and unloving because we fail to see who our real enemy is.**

***Bridge sentence:* Firstly, realize that people are not my enemy; secondly, realize that the world, the flesh, and devil are my enemies, and finally**

**III. And finally, to win abortion minded people to Christ, you and I need to realize that we were once, ourselves, an enemy of God {Romans 5:10}**

a. Paul, in **Romans 5:10** says,

*“For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”*

**John MacArthur** has said that *“when we were God’s enemies, Christ was able, by His death, to reconcile us to God. Certainly now that we are God’s children, the Savior can keep us by His loving power”*

b. John Calvin has said that *“We were enemies..when Christ presented Himself to the Father as a means of propitiation. We are now made friends by His reconciliation..”*

Propitiation has reference to the forbearance of God. There’s a picture of the mercy seat of the Old Testament tabernacle. In Luke 18:13, while the Pharisee thanked God that he was “not like other people, swindlers, unjust, etc., the Publican, with head bowed, beat his chest and said “God, be merciful (be propitiated) to me a sinner.”

Have we forgotten this great truth? You and I, if we know Christ, were once an enemy of God. In that state of being an enemy, Christ died for us. How can we possibly not have compassion and concern for the abortionist and the women deceived by abortion.

*“And such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the Spirit of God.”*

**Conclusion:**

**Who is my enemy? It's not Steven Brigham or his staff. It's the world system, my own sinful desires, the devil and his evil forces.**

**And, praise God, while I was once an enemy of God, I am now called friend.**

**If you and I really believe this and act on it, we can show those who oppose our message that Christ is alive and what He did for us, he can do for them.**

**Personal Commitment:**

**If you're hearing this message and you don't know Christ personally, you can have the mercy of God applied to your life. You can come to Him just as you are.**

**HYMN:   *"Just As I Am"***